6.1.16 Post-Spanish War Development - The Church Committee's History of US Intelligence (1976)

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THE EVOLUTION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE FEDERAL INTELLIGENCE FUNCTION: A BRIEF OVERVIEW
(1776-1975)

Final Report of the Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities United States Senate

Book 6, Supplementary Reports on Intelligence Activities

Prepared for the Select Committee by Dr. Harold C. Relyea, Analyst in American National Government, Government and General Research Division, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress in 1976.

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[Music] sixteen post-war developments when the Philippines were ceded to the United States revolutionary forces within the islands anticipated independence for their country when they learned that they had merely exchanged colonial overseers agitation and insurrection became their tactic of reprisal among those leading these assaults was emilio aguinaldo an insurrectionist of longstanding whom the united states enlisted in the war against spain only to have him become a foe when peace gave america control of the philippines by 1901 Nagin Aldo was an intelligence interest his pursuer was Frederick Funston an agent of the military information division Funston had served with the cuban revolutionary forces was caught by the spanish authorities and obtained release from prison through the intervention of american diplomats upon returning to the United States he was debriefed by Colonel Arthur Wagner head of the military information division recognized his keen eye and remembered his abilities when difficulties arose with Aguinaldo having served in the islands during the spanish-american war Funston was stationed at San Ysidro on Luzon when in February 1901 he received word of the capture of a band of insurrectos one of whom was a courier from Aguinaldo with cipher messages for other insurrectionist leaders it also appeared that again Aldo himself was encamped in the northern area of Liu's own perhaps in the friendly village of Pelin on quote funston's mind

went into action he knew it would be impossible to take AG and Aldo by conventional military methods any movement of that kind would be telegraphed far ahead by means only the keen-eyed Tagalog guerrillas knew he studied the map paladin lay inland from the east coast

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paladin lay inland from the east coast at the northern end of Luzon a plan began to form in his head a chosen band of Filipinos loyal to the United States and led only by a cadre of Americans who would have to be disguised somehow might be taken by sea to the north then disembarked at night for quick penetration of the hinterland by one ruse or another Agha naldo's stronghold would have to be breached without a fight or the slippery rebel chief would disappear into nothingness as he had so often done before end quote Funston recruited approximately a hundred Maccabee bees as revolutionaries and explained the presence of Americans with them as being captives their cause and case was strengthened by the addition of some forged communicates and linguistic cramming on the part of the Maccabee bees to learn the Tagalog dialect authenticity was added to the band with appropriate uniforms and weapons the gunboat Vicksburg landed the group on the northern coast and a grueling march inland was begun after much suffering the party came in contact with one of Agra naldo's forward observers the MacCabe bees were taken into the enemy camp while the American captives were held a short distance away at the proper moment the Maccabees seized the rebels the Americans rushed in and Aguinaldo was captured quote word of the American success spread across wild northern Luzon with the rapidity that always has astounded those accustomed only to the electric marvels of civilization Funston turned his force about prepared for the worst he knew that if the trip inland had been rough the return could be all but impossible if the country remained hostile to his immeasurable relief it did not and when aldo in captivity seemed to paralyze the people the trip

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seemed to paralyze the people the trip to the coast was made almost without incident and thence by ship to Manila the back of the insurrection was broken end quote it was also in 1901 in the Philippines that another intelligence actor captain Ralph H Van Diemen made his appearance a graduate of West Point and once an army surgeon Van Diemen championed the fledgling military information division and urged his military superiors to give more consideration to intelligence development in the Philippines he came to the attention of General Arthur MacArthur who asked him to organize a Philippines military Information Bureau although patterned after the Adjutant General's unit Van Diemen's office had no official connection with Washington namesake there was also one major operational difference between the two organizations and 'man utilized undercover operatives all Filipinos except for one American subsequently the Philippines military information bureau would uncover a plot to assassinate General MacArthur apprised the army of Japanese interests and intelligence activity in the Philippines and make clandestine observations in China during the Boxer Rebellion in 1903 after the General Staff system was introduced in the Army and the intelligence organization became the second division g2 of the General Staff the Philippines military Information Bureau was given branch status to the new Intelligence Division Van Diemen returned from Asian duty in 1915 and would assume a major leadership role in intelligence activities as America prepared for World War when the General Staff of the army was created by Congress in 1903 the military information division of the Adjutant General's Office became the second division of the new entity footnote generally on the general staff concept

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generally on the general staff concept CJD Hittle the military staff its history and development harrisburg the military service publishing company 1949 otto L Nelson jr. national security and the general staff Washington Infantry Journal press 1946 Raphael P thean legislative history of the General Staff of the army of the United States Washington United States government at office 1901 and footnote this change in status generally pleased intelligence advocates within the army however general Franklin Bell a man with whom Van Diemen had publicly disagreed over intelligence matters in the Philippines and an officer not favorably disposed toward the intelligence function became chief of staff when the head of the Army War College g3 suggested

that the Intelligence Division be physically housed with the War College to facilitate use of common resources Bell approved the proposal as being practical shortly thereafter the War College sought to absorb the intelligence unit this action Bell also approved but perhaps not merely for reasons of practicality alone transferred to the War College in 1908 the intelligence function was administered by an information committee from 1910 until the dawn of World War one a panel described by one Authority as quote personnel with no knowledge of the intelligence units aims and functions and no interest in learning them end quote the military were not unaware of possible intelligence penetration by foreign powers and of the necessity of protecting defense facilities and information from such scrutiny new regulations in 1908 on this matter said quote commanding officers of posts at which are located lake or coastal defenses are charged with the responsibility of preventing as far as practicable visitors from obtaining

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practicable visitors from obtaining information relative to such defenses which would probably be communicated to a foreign power and to this end may prescribe and enforce appropriate regulations governing visitors to their posts American citizens whose loyalty to their government is unquestioned may be permitted to visit such portions of the defenses as the commanding officer deems proper the taking of photographic or other views of permanent works of Defence will not be permitted neither written nor pictorial descriptions of these works will be made for publication without the authority of the Secretary of War nor will any information be given concerning them which is not contained in the printed reports and documents of the War Department end quote it is thought that this language constitutes the first open admission by the War Department of an effort to protect fixed defenses and information pertaining to same against foreign intelligence penetration at approximately the same point in time as this security directive was issued efforts said establishing the government's first general investigative organization came to fruition resulting in a force generally designed to probe crimes against the federal establishment and to pursue those alleged to have committed such offences inherent in this investigative mission was an intelligence function the systematic gathering and interpretation of information with a view to Crime Control and Prevention a point of contention and debate within this mission as will be seen is whether the crimes in question are solely those which are prosecutable or whether other potential or actual offenses not stated in law may be included in the understanding while the Attorney General was one of the original cabinet officers of 1789 a Department of Justice did not exist until June 1870 the following year Congress provided the new agency with

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Congress provided the new agency with $50,000 for the quote detection and prosecution of crimes against the United States end quote however because attorney general Amos J Ackerman had only one special agent for detection work he utilized the appropriation by employing private detectives borrowing Secret Service agents or otherwise burdening United States Attorney's and marshals with investigative tasks in 1875 Attorney General George H Williams appointed for regional special detectives and occasionally hired private detectives when the United States Attorney's had need of such services for specific duties a few examiner's were added to the Justice Department's forces in 1878 these personnel scrutinized the records of court clerk's marshals commissioners and district attorneys but because their appointments soon became embroiled in patronage they rendered what has been described as dis sultry service during his tenure of office Attorney General Benjamin H Brewster 1881 through 1884 declared he was personally opposed to utilizing private detectives for department investigate ory work but while he said he wanted to dispose of such operatives as soon as possible he was forced to rely on some private assistance and chose the Pinkerton agency after the homestead Massacre tarnished the Pinkerton name Congress in indignation over the incident forbid the further utilization of these agents and effectively ended the use of private detectives by the federal government footnote on July 6th 1892 strikers at the Carnegie steel company plant in Homestead Pennsylvania fired upon two barges on the Monongahela River containing some 300 Pinkerton detectives the Pinkertons were known strike breakers and their presence generated hatred among the strikers after several hours of fighting the

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after several hours of fighting the Pinkerton forces surrendered and were roughly escorted out of town in the aftermath of the encounter three guards and ten strikers lay dead and others suffered severe injuries some 8,000 National Guardsmen restored order in the community and subsequently after holding out for almost five months the strike was given up no effective steal Union was organized in the area until the 1930s and footnote the Justice Department continued to rely upon the Secret Service for investigators after the utilization of private detectives was halted and by 1906 as many as 32 of these operatives had been detailed from Treasury the arrangement was a makeshift and rested upon congressional sanction through the annual appropriations process by 1907 Attorney General Charles J Bonaparte the american-born grandson of Napoleon's youngest brother attempted to obtain his own investigators but Congress for various reasons was unconvinced of their necessity quote one factor was an over generalized but not unwarranted contempt for detectives and their practices many persons who then went into such work were recommended for it by their own criminal records and what these had taught them about the underworld not by any respect for the law - Attorney General Bonaparte the fact that detectives tended not to be a high type signified that justice should have its own force of carefully chosen and rigorously supervised din vestigators but too many members of Congress among them Chairman James a Tony of the House Appropriations Committee and signified that detectives should to the greatest possible extent be kept out of the federal government the other factor was a state of tension between Congress and the president its basic cause was the fact that a congress still rooted in the

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fact that a congress still rooted in the McKinley mark Hanna tradition of politics had no taste for Roosevelt's many-sided reform program or for his trust-busting fervor Speaker Joe cannon for example the most powerful man in the house broke with the president and became one of his arch foes because of the government's antitrust action against Standard Oil this and other actions of like type had cannon contended shaken the confidence of the business community and brought on financial panic secondary causes of tension were however soon added to the primary cause in 1905 Senator John Mitchell and representative John Williamson both of Oregon were indicted in land fraud cases when Roosevelt said in terms that sounded like a blanket charge of wrongdoing that he would order as many more investigations of members of Congress as seemed warranted that body went on the defensive it was kept there by rumour mongers some of whom were indubitably in the pay of elements that wanted to go to Congress into halting justices use of Secret Service operatives end quote not only did Congress deny Bonaparte's request for an investigative force in 1907 it refused to comply again the following year when a prohibition on the detailing of Secret Service agents to the Justice Department was also affected faced with the prospect of having no avenue for organizing a detection group other than his own authority the Attorney General with the president's approval and at the suggestion of Henry L Stimson who was then United States attorney in New York hired nine Secret Service agents who were separated from Treasury on June 30th 1908 quote on July 1st 1908 Attorney General Bonaparte put his 9 new detectives and such special agents and examiner's as were already on his payroll under the supervision of his chief examiner Stanley W Finch and thus

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chief examiner Stanley W Finch and thus gave himself a force of 23 men on July 26th acting on presidential instructions he issued the order which made this force a permanent subdivision of the department with Finch as its chief and quote reluctantly Congress accepted the new investigative unit at first it did not have a strong mission scribed by existing laws soon however it began operations pursuant to the Constitution's interstate commerce clause tracking down stolen federal property and thieves transversing state boundaries pursuing white slavers violating the Mann Act and scrutinizing the sources of labor unrest and revolutionary rhetoric soon it along with the other fledgling intelligence institutions would be confronted with monumental responsibilities and as war clouds in Europe cast shadows upon America and plunged the world into war [Music] this is our hidden history you

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